

County of Los Angeles

Sheriff's Department Headquarters 4700 Ramona Boulevard Monterey Park, California 91754–2169



December 12, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT BACKLOG ELIMINATION PROGRAM (CALIFORNIA COLD HIT PROJECT GRANT)
FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 6, 2003 TO DECEMBER 6, 2003

In late January 2001, the Sheriff's Department, Scientific Services Bureau (SSB), received notification that the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) had approved a grant application to participate in the State reimbursement program to examine backlogged sexual assault cases utilizing new DNA technology. In early March 2001, the Board of Supervisors approved the Department's participation in this Grant Program and requested quarterly reports on the activities relating to the Grant Program.

QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF GRANT ACTIVITIES:

During this period, most of the activity was spent performing laboratory screening and DNA profiling on sexual assault evidence. SSB continued receiving kits from our Department and police departments from the independent cities, within the County. Analysis efforts were focused on the older cases, prior to working the more recent. The screening of cases is scheduled for completion in December 2003 and the profiling of all cases in September 2004. Some cases were outsourced in response to Penal Code 803 regarding the statute of limitations for felony sex crimes. In order to complete the typing of DNA evidence from specified sex offenses that qualify for the new statute of limitation provisions, approximately 40 cases were sent to the Orange County Sheriff's crime laboratory for profiling. Due to the statute of limitations soon expiring, these

cases were tested and entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database.

As approved by our OCJP Program Specialist, the profiled cases will be billed to OCJP by Los Angeles County and reimbursed by Los Angeles County to Orange County.

One (1) Cold Hit and nine (9) Case-to-Case Hits were confirmed since the last reporting period. Of notable interest was the linking of four (4) sexual assault cases which occurred in the Paramount, Bellflower and Compton areas. All four sexual assaults involved female victims assaulted in their residence.

As requested, an attachment is included with this letter that summarizes the casework activity for this Grant Program.

Should you need further clarification or additional information, please contact Scientific Services Bureau Assistant Director Dean M. Gialamas at (213) 989-5003.

Respectfully submitted,

LEROY D. BACA SHERIFF



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SEXUAL ASSAULT BACKLOG ELIMINATION (SABEL) PROGRAM

DECEMBER 2003 REPORTING SUMMARY

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| Number of Cases Inventoried | 950 | This figure represents the estimated number of cases in the storage lockers and freezers of lavenforcement agencies within County of Los Angeles. |
| Number of Cases Received | 950 | This figure represents the number of cases that the Sheriff's Department's Crime Lab has received that meet the grant eligibility requirements. |
| Number of Cases Screened | 878 | This figure represents the number of cases that have been screened for biological evidence. Those cases which contain biological evidence suitable for DNA testing would proceed to the "Profiling" step. |
| Number of Cases Profiled | 357 | This figure represents the number of cases that were subjected to DNA testing and have been entered into the state and national DNA databases (CODIS). |
| Number of Cold Hits Confirmed | 16 | This figure represents the number of cases that have returned a named suspect based on the DNA profile having matched a felony offender in the database. |
| Number of Case-to-Case Hits | 38 | This figure represents the number of times that samples from separate cases have been related to each other. Although these cases do not identify a suspect, they do provide law enforcement with investigative leads that may help identify the perpetrator. |